

Rotary makes a difference globally, working with partners around the world on projects that promote health, economic opportunity and inclusivity. With this news update, the Rotary Club of Milwaukee hopes to keep members and partners informed about the projects we are working on together in Guatemala.

Escuintla Hospital WASH Global Grant



The Rotary logo proudly displayed on the water tank atop the 74 foot water tower.

Our project to provide a clean and reliable water source to the Escuintla, Guatemala Hospital is nearing completion and we are pleased to share the good news as we prepare the close-out evaluation.

As detailed in past newsletters, the project kicked off May, 2021 with digging a 600 foot deep well and by October contractors and the local community had constructed a water tower and tank, a pump, a chlorinator, and completed trenching and piping to bring water to the hospital. In the following months, electrical equipment needed to power the new system was installed and within the hospital, 24 new surgical sinks, 32 showerheads, and 38 toilets replaced old unsanitary fixtures.

Performance and water testing was conducted throughout the system, WASH training was undertaken and hygiene educational posters were provided. And finally, operation and maintenance procedure training was completed to assure hospital staff and the local community were ready to operate and care for the system.

And ready they were. On August 19, 2022, project participants gathered to celebrate completion of the project and unveil a commemorative plaque.

One of the final steps in the grant process is the monitoring and evaluation to determine if the project has met its goals. Before the project began, water for drinking and sanitation was in short supply, was available only sporadically, and was often of poor quality. To establish a baseline, water quality test were done and initial surveys conducted with hospital personnel where they identified many areas of concern including not being able to carry out bathing of patients, inability to wash equipment, prepare surgical liquids, or prepare food. After completion of the project, a second round of testing and



Rotarians from the Escuintla and Vista Hermosa Rotary Clubs were joined by Escuintla Hospital personnel, members of Engineers Without Borders, workers, local officials and community members to celebrate completion of the project.

surveys were conducted finding that “the quality and quantity of water has been substantially improved making possible proper hygiene conditions in patients, rationing of access to water has been reduced, and proper bathroom cleaning and use in other areas of the hospital is possible. The risk of contagion from other diseases that was caused by water scarcity and poor quality has been reduced.”

A permanent plaque has been installed to commemorate the contribution of Rotary to bringing a steady supply of clean fresh water to Escuintla Hospital and to the thousands of patients it serves. Thank you to all.

